

again, against Main Street American working people.

It's time this President came back to his Democratic roots, his Democratic values. Geithner needs to go too. Let's bring in a team that cares about working Americans.

VICTORY IN IRAQ

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, at the end of August the goal was achieved of a transition of security in Iraq from an active combat role of Americans to the security forces of the people of Iraq. All Americans should express gratitude for the courage and resolve of our military and military families.

Newsweek's cover page of March 8 declared: "Victory at Last," with the emergence of a democratic Iraq. The Wall Street Journal editorialized "Victory in Iraq" on August 30, citing "the courage of the Americans who will fight in our defense." On September 6 the Washington Times proclaimed "Mission Accomplished" in Iraq.

As the grateful father of two sons who served in Iraq and as cochairman of the Victory in Iraq Caucus established with our former colleague, Mark Green of Wisconsin, I know firsthand of the achievements of the American military personnel. I am confident with the leadership of General David Petraeus, based on the Bush success of Iraq, that the Obama surge in Afghanistan will promote liberty and peace.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

U.S., ISRAELI, AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS DESERVE SUPPORT ON PEACE TALKS

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the U.S., Israeli, and Palestinian leaders for renewing direct peace talks in Washington earlier this month and continuing them in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas have shown great courage in deciding to end the conflict within 1 year. We know it won't be easy, but I felt such hope when I saw these two leaders stand together and condemn the deadly attacks on Israel citizens by Hamas. Neither let the enemies of peace undermine the start of negotiations. This speaks volumes about their commitment to finally achieving a two-state solution.

Making peace means making tough choices. Each side will have to make painful concessions. The U.S. can provide support to both parties as they make these tough decisions, choices that have to be made for a better, more secure future for all their peoples.

I support the return to direct talks to achieve a lasting peace in the Middle East. And I call on all my colleagues in the international community to support this process.

HALT TAX HIKES

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand to voice my support for protecting small business on Main Street from the Obama tax hikes that start January 1. To create jobs, we need lower tax rates for everyone.

Most small businesses pay taxes based on the individual tax rate. Increasing the individual tax rate means mom-and-pop business owners will have less money for business investment and job creation. It's not smart to raise taxes ever and certainly not in the wake of America's longest recession.

How will raising taxes put people back to work?

As a former small business owner, I know that the very threat of tax hikes, combined with the new health care law and the countless new rules and mandates coming from the Democrats, are impacting the ability and willingness of small businesses to create jobs.

We need an up-or-down vote on freezing tax rates for everyone before election day so the American people can see for themselves who supports or opposes small business and free enterprise.

TAX PROPOSAL AND HONORING 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACE CORPS

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I intended to speak to the 49th anniversary of the Peace Corps. On this day, 49 years ago, Congress passed and the President signed the authorization for the Peace Corps. Over those 49 years, tens of thousands, indeed hundreds of thousands, of Americans have served this country in what is known as the most difficult job you will ever love, and my wife and I did, indeed, love it.

However, the tax proposal that's before us is that every American taxpayer will receive a lower tax rate on the first \$250,000 that they have in adjusted gross income, whether they are a small business or an individual taxpayer. Those that have greater would pay somewhat higher tax. The other alternative is to run up the deficit another \$700 billion, which I think is a particularly bad idea.

But back to the Peace Corps. It's a great institution, and it's been supported by both Democrats and Republicans, and we think that's a good thing.

And that's the rest of the story.

□ 1420

TAX RELIEF FOR STRUGGLING AMERICANS

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the American people are hurting in the city and on the farm. Our economy continues to struggle. Unless Congress acts before the end of this year, every American will see a tax increase—every single one.

That's why I rise in disbelief with the news that this Congress is poised to adjourn for the fall's elections without even taking a vote on extending current tax relief. Let me say that again. I know there are proposals on the majority side about trying to extend the tax relief for some and not others, but what we are hearing is they intend to adjourn before Election Day without ever voting to make sure that no American sees a tax increase in January of next year.

Mr. Speaker, higher taxes won't get anybody hired. Raising taxes on job creators won't create jobs. Let's have the debate. There's a growing bipartisan majority in this House that is prepared to extend all tax relief for every American in this, the worst economy in 25 years.

And so I say, no extension of tax relief, no adjournment. Congress must not adjourn until we take an up-or-down vote on extending all tax relief for every American.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF U.S. ARMY SPECIALIST BRYN TODD RAVER

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a brave American soldier who sacrificed his life in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, U.S. Army Specialist Bryn Todd Raver.

Bryn joined the Army in December of 2007, following in the steps of his grandfather, a Korean War veteran. Bryn was assigned to the 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. He served as a military policeman and deployed to Afghanistan in April of 2010. Commanding officers noted that Specialist Raver was the first to prepare for a mission and the last to leave.

His commitment to this country is second to none. Family members say he loved serving his country and talked about his desire to continue his service for 4 more years working to become an Army drill sergeant.

On August 28, 2010, Specialist Raver died of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked the armored vehicle he was driving. He was 20 years old.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Raver and his family made a tremendous sacrifice for our country. Bryn is a true American